

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03801 091414Z

43

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P R 091325Z JUL 74

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3052

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3801

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS

SUBJ: BRIDGE PROBLEMS

REF: (A) AMMAN 3860; (B) STATE 145003; (C) TEL AVIV 3758

1. DAFNI (CHIEF, NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, MFA) GAVE ME TODAY RESULTS OF MFA INQUIRY RE BRIDGE PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT INFORMATION RE NUMBER CROSSING BRIDGE DAILY IS VIRTUALLY EXACT OPPOSITE RPT OPPOSITE OF INFO I PROVIDED. HE EXPLAINED THAT NORMALLY THE PAST FEW WEEKS -- BEGINNING OF PEAK SEASON -- THE GOI HAS BEEN PROCESSING 3,000 RPT 3,000 TRAVELERS PER DAY. RIFAI'S DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION, THEREFORE, TOTALLY AT VARIANCE WITH FACTS AVAILABLE TO THE ISRAELIS.

2. DAFNI NOTED THAT IN PEAK SEASON IN GENERAL THERE WAS TENDENCY OF PEOPLE TO GET STACKED UP ON BOTH SIDES OF BRIDGES. IN RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT, ISRAELIS HAVE TRIED TO PROVIDE VISITORS ON THEIR SIDE OF BRIDGE WITH SOME PROTECTION FROM SUN AS WELL AS REFRESHMENT STANDS, ETC. HE WONDERED IF JORDANIANS HAD TAKEN NECESSARY STEPS TO DO LIKEWISE OR TRIED SOME SYSTEM OF CONTROLLING NUMBERS WHO DAILY PROCEED TO BRIDGES FROM AMMAN.

3. DESPITE FACTUAL SITUATION (AS SEEN BY ISRAELIS) AND IN EFFORT TO SEEM TO BE RESPONSIVE TO RIFAI'S REQUEST, DAFNI SAID ISRAELIS ARE TRYING TO FIND SOME ADDITIONAL PEOPLE WHO COULD BE ASSIGNED TO SCREENING PROCESS.

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DAFNI AND THAT THAT IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, GIVEN CURRENT HEAVY FLOW,

GOI WOULD NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO INCREASE NUMBERS FLOWING ACROSS BRIDGES BY MORE THAN ADDITIONAL FEW HUNDRED PER DAY. HE ASKED THAT WE HOLD INFORMATION IN THIS PARAGRAPH FYI FOR TIME BEING AND NOT PASS TO JORDANIANS UNTIL ISRAELIS WERE SURE THAT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE.

4. TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST CARRIES SHORT ARTICLE ON PAGE 2 CONCERNING ARAB VISITORS FROM JORDAN WHO CROSSED THE BRIDGES. STORY NOTES THAT 35,000 VISITORS HAD ENTERED SO FAR THIS SUMMER AT RATE OF 3,000 PER DAY. IT ALSO NOTES THAT JORDANIAN AUTHORITIES ARE TODAY INSTITUTING REQUIREMENT FOR PERMIT TO GO FROM AMMAN TO THE BRIDGES BECAUSE OF LARGE NUMBER OF INTENDING VISITORS WHO HAD TO WAIT OVERNIGHT BEFORE BEING PROCESSED. TEXT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. VELIOTES

SECRET

NNN

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